

Amendments to the Specification

On page 2, at lines 18-19, please amend the specification as follows:

--In other embodiments, the host strain is *E. coli* strain W3110 or the strain zGOLD1, deposited with the American Type Culture Collection 10801 University Boulevard, # Manassas, VA 20110-2209, as ATTC No. 5698, on December 12, 2003.--

On page 2, at lines 21-23, please amend the specification as follows:

--In one embodiment, the method comprising culturing a host cell expressing IL-21 being transformed with pTAP337 (deposited on December 11, 2002, with the American Type Culture Collection 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209, as ATCC No PTA-4853).--